

KIDERLEN-WACHTER, THE MAN OF
AGADIR 149

formal response. Unfortunately they were not so interpreted by the German Government, which believed itself to have made the position clear in the communications of July *i.* Nothing was heard from Berlin till July n, when the British Ambassador called at the Wilhelmstrasse on some minor matters. After a general reference by Kiderlen to the Morocco question, Goschen remarked that the attitude of the British Government had been made absolutely clear. A conversation between Germany, France and Spain would be unacceptable.

There had never been any idea of such a conversation *a trots** rejoined the Foreign Minister. He added that he had had very friendly conversations with the French Ambassador, and had strong hopes that they would find a *modus vivendi*. It seemed a hopeful sign that on July 14 Kiderlen suggested to Goschen that a meeting between the German and British fleets arranged to take place at Molde should be cancelled, since the Kaiser was likely to make an injudicious speech.

The first conversation between Kiderlen and Cambon after the Agadir coup took place on July 9, when, after an embarrassing silence on both sides, the Foreign Minister proposed to continue the Kissingen discussions and outlined the settlement which he had long had in mind. The hitch in the railway agreement had opened their eyes and a change would be made. Germany would renounce territorial and political aims in Morocco in return for compensation elsewhere, for instance in the French Congo. The negotiations, he added, must be confined to Germany and France. If any other Power joined in, all the signatories of the Algeiras Treaty would claim to take part. The Ambassador approved both project and method, though he added that the British Government would be kept informed.

Kiderlen's demands went further than France expected.
On July 15 the Chancellor informed his master that the Foreign Minister was claiming the whole French Congo as compensation for leaving Morocco to France, and that a favourable result could only be obtained by a very firm stand. To secure the French Congo, he added, would involve the cession of some German territory, perhaps in Togoland. The Emperor complained that Kiderlen seemed to wish to go beyond the limits hitherto agreed. " If your Excellency and the Foreign Secretary think a menacing attitude necessary, His Majesty must at once return. In his absence it cannot be done. His Majesty begs for a prompt explanation." Kiderlen's reply to